



Official Bulletin of  
**WAIKATO TRAMPING CLUB**

**P. O. Box 685, Hamilton 3240 • [www.wtc.org.nz](http://www.wtc.org.nz)**

**Free to members**

**Member of: Federated Mountain Clubs of New Zealand Inc  
Ruapehu Mountain Clubs Association**

**BULLETIN No 862**

**June 2024**

**General Committee**

(Contact details listed below)

<b>President:</b>	Rupert Craggs	027 6811926
<b>Secretary:</b>	Dorothy Cawdron	027 7424222
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Guy Domett	027 2483008
<b>Members:</b>	John McArthur (VP Tramp)	
	Stephen Phillips   Allan Wickens   Selwyn June	

~~~~~

**Tramping Subcommittee**

**Tramping email:** [waikatotrampingclub@gmail.com](mailto:waikatotrampingclub@gmail.com)

|                         |                                                                                  |             |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Chairperson:</b>     | John McArthur <a href="mailto:mcarthur@outlook.co.nz">mcarthur@outlook.co.nz</a> | 021 2889641 |
| <b>Club Captain:</b>    | Les Warren                                                                       | 027 8644937 |
| <b>Membership:</b>      | Jocelyn Widmer                                                                   | 027 8664795 |
| <b>Member:</b>          | Selwyn June                                                                      | 027 4978151 |
| <b>Transport:</b>       | Allan Wickens                                                                    | 027 9509546 |
| <b>Social convenor:</b> | David Totman                                                                     | 021 868720  |
| <b>Facebook:</b>        | Jacqui Dick                                                                      | 021 1375201 |

~~~~~

**Ski Subcommittee**

**Ski email:** [waikatoski@gmail.com](mailto:waikatoski@gmail.com)

<b>Chairperson:</b>		
<b>Ski VP:</b>	Stephen Phillips	021 1031436
<b>Bookings:</b>	Ashley Hoskin	027 4909545
<b>Finance officer:</b>	Michael Barker	021 2463500
<b>Members:</b>	Ashley Hoskin	027 4909545

~~~~~

|                                     |                                                                    |             |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Bulletin:</b>                    | Lesley Kuggeleijn                                                  | 027 4942414 |
| <b>Editor &amp; Club Librarian:</b> | Dianne June <a href="mailto:djune@xtra.co.nz">djune@xtra.co.nz</a> | 07 8433066  |

~~~~~

**Waikato Tramping Club account: 03 1555 0091625 02 (include the trip no.)**

## Club Night: Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July

We meet at St. Peter's Cathedral in Victoria St  
Door opens at 7.00pm and the meeting starts at 7.30pm.

### Two African Giants

Part 2 of David Totman's African adventures, the first of which everyone found most interesting last month.

## ACTIVITIES CALENDAR 2024

3129	21-23 Jun	E-M	Waitakere 1	Allan Wickens
3130	28-30 Jun	E-F	Matariki	Les Warren & Jacqui Dick
	3 July		CLUB NIGHT	
3131	7 Jul	E	Meremere -Rangiriri	John McArthur
3132	13/14 Jul	M	Te Rereatukahia hut	Theresa O'Leary
3133	21 Jul	E/M	Te Aroha via Waiorongomai	Cathy Dickson
3134	27/28 Jul	M	Snowcraft I	Mike Peck
3135	4 Aug	M	Sthn Hakarimatas	John Wilson
3136	8-11 August	M	Whanganui Day Trips	Judith Bogle
3137	18 August	E/M	Pukehohe 5 Summits Trail	Selwyn June

Don't let a lack of equipment deter you from coming on a trip. Talk to the trip leader - who may be able to assist with lending or sharing gear.

### TIME and FITNESS GUIDELINES

<b>E</b> = Easy.	Up to 4 hours per day, pace slower than E/M.
<b>E/M</b> = Easy/Medium.	Up to 5-6 hours/day, pace slower than M.
<b>M</b> = Medium.	Up to 6-7 hours/day, at standard walking pace.
<b>M/F</b> = Medium/Fit.	Up to 7-8 hours/day, pace faster than M.
<b>F</b> = Fit.	Over 8 hours/day, pace faster than M/F.

Note that factors such as party size, fitness, weather, terrain and leadership will influence actual times, so the above are estimates only.

**Bookings and Cancellations:** no later than the **TUESDAY** before the trip. Any person withdrawing after this day without good reason will be charged the full cost of the trip.

**Departure Point:** Weekend trips depart from the Gate 1 at Waikato University. Park closer to other vehicles as this area is security monitored. Leave on Friday nights at 7pm sharp unless otherwise stated. **Day** trips depart from London St at the river end- park on the roadside. Leave Sunday mornings at 8am sharp.

If someone is concerned because a trip is **late back**, contact:

1) Club Captain; 2) President; 3) a committee member.

### **Minimum equipment required:**

**Day Trips:** A thermal layer (polypropylene, polyester etc or wool), an insulating layer of fleece (polartec etc) or wool and a water & wind-proof parka outer shell. Shorts or long-johns/over-trousers in cool or wet weather. Torch and sunscreen. Boots or strong shoes. Lunch, snacks and water bottle. First aid kit.

**Weekend Trips:** The above, plus pack with plastic liner bag, sleeping bag, tent, sleeping mat, cooker, billy, plate or bowl, spoon, food, spare dry clothes for evening, towel, toilet gear, light camp shoes. A water purifier can be useful. Plus, in extreme weather or country: additional warm top, over-trousers or woollen/ fleece trousers, warm outdoor mittens or gloves, over-mitts, warm hat or balaclava, sunglasses. Ice axe and crampons for snow.

---

## **Trip Descriptions**

### **Trip 3129**

### **Waitakeres I**

**21-23 June**

This weekend trip is the first of two planned where we will explore as many of the tracks as possible, within the Waitakere Ranges Regional Park. Although several tracks have been closed (some indefinitely) due to kauri dieback, there are still many possibilities for walks that range from easy to medium level. For each weekend, we will be based at the Auckland Tramping Club backcountry hut. This hut sleeps 21 people and we have booked the whole hut. There is a 5- minute walk from the carpark to the hut. Amenities at the hut include platform bunks with mattresses (BYO sleeping bag), gas hobs, cooking pots, a wood burning stove and sun-drenched deck. The cost to stay at the hut depends on the numbers in our group but as the whole hut costs \$180 per night it means it will be an inexpensive weekend's accommodation. We have booked the hut for Friday and Saturday nights. This will enable an early start doing walks on Saturday morning. It is anticipated that we will have at least one van going Friday night and possibly two. As we will need to drop off and pick up walkers from various parts of the park, we would prefer to use vans rather than private vehicles in order to maximise vehicle loadings. As WTC has not run such an event for a number of years, interest in going on both weekends is bound to be quite high so register early please. NOTE: Waitakeres Two is being held over the weekend of 21-22 September, again with Friday and Saturday night stays at the ATC hut. We do not have a trip number yet so if you want to go on both trips (as a "combo") please indicate this to the leader when you register for Waitakeres One. Note: the walks will vary in length from quite short and easy to several hours and E/M

**Leader:** Allan Wickens

**Ph:** 027 950 9546

**Grades :** E-M

**Email :** [allanwickens@hotmail.com](mailto:allanwickens@hotmail.com) (preferred)

**Accommodation** at ATC hut around \$30-40 for the weekend.

**Transport:** Senior member: \$50-60      Senior N/M: \$60-70

(leaves HN between 4.30 – 5.30 pm Friday night). There will not be an earlier van as this would mean incurring a 3-day van hire.

---

**Trip 3130****Matariki Weekend****28-30 June**

The Club is organising another Matariki Weekend at the Club Lodge at Ruapehu. The weekend program is:

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June – Travel to the Lodge in the morning. Walk up to the Lodge and settle in. After some lunch some walk options will be offered.

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June – A selection of walks of various fitness levels will be on offer. After pre-dinner nibbles, we will have a special Matariki dinner for the group. We are working on inviting someone to come along and talk about Matariki after dinner (may be on Friday night).

Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> June – To be decided. We could clean up and leave mid-morning and do a short walk or two on our way home.

**Accommodation:** PLEASE NOTE that we have only been allocated 16 bunks at this stage. When you register for this weekend, please indicate whether you require a single bunk or a double bunk. This will help with the planning. If more than 16 people register, we will keep a Waiting List in case we are given more bunks or people pull out.

**Catering:** As mentioned above, we will have a special dinner for Saturday night for the group. Jacqui has kindly offered to organise the special dinner. I am sure she would like a few helpers (mention in your registration whether you are able to help). All other meals - breakfasts, lunches, Friday night dinner, and drinks etc, are BYO. Also, if each person can bring some pre-dinner nibbles to share, that would be great. Tea/Coffee/etc, milk and sugar will be provided.

**Walks:** Various walks between easy and fit will be offered during the weekend. Details of walks are yet to be sorted out with more details provided closer to the weekend. Obviously, the weather will decide what we do.

More details on the weekend will be sent out closer to the weekend including recommended clothing / equipment to bring and, costs. If anyone has suggestions on walks etc we can consider, please feel free to contact me.

**Leaders:** Les Warren  
Jacqui Dick

**Ph:** 027 864 4937  
021 260 8149

**Grade:** E-F

**Email:** warrenlb2017@outlook.com or jacquimd@me.com

**Transport:** tba

**Accommodation:** tba

---

**Trip 3131****Te Aroha Summit Via Waiorongomai****7 July**

This trip will start at Waiorongomai car park and finish in Te Aroha. We will climb up the Waiorongomai Valley via the lower-level loop track, Bulters Incline, Te Aroha Link Track to the Waipapa Track and up to the summit. We will stop here for lunch. We have a few options for our return down to Te Aroha and this will depend on the weather, daylight hours and how the group is feeling. Choices are a descent down the Te Aroha summit track or, all or part of the Tui mine track. This will be a full day taking approximately 7 hours.

**Leader:** Cathy Dickson

**Ph:** 021 353 561

**Grade:** M/F

---

**Trip 3132****Kaimais -Te Rereatukahia Hut****July 13&14**

You must book your own \$25 Hut bunk ASAP before you register for this trip. There are 12 bunks available. This is a serviced hut, mattresses, water, toilet, handwashing and heating available.

We will use the Tuahu Track to join the North South track to get to the hut and on

Sunday we will walk out towards the sea.



We have drivers who are going to pick us up on the Katikati side.

The Tuahu is a DOC **advanced tramping track** – challenging, unformed track, rough and steep, may have unbridged river crossings.

<https://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/places-to-go/bay-of-plenty/places/kaimai-mamaku-conservation-park/things-to-do/tracks/tuahu-track/>

**Leader:** Theresa O'Leary **Ph:** 027 416 2633 [theresa.oleary.eme@gmail.com](mailto:theresa.oleary.eme@gmail.com)

**Cost:** shared transport – and \$25 hut ticket

---

**Trip 3133****Meremere to Rangiriri****21 July**

From Meremere to Rangiriri the Te Araroa Trail runs mostly along stop banks beside the Waikato River. We will start by the drag strip, cross farmland to the river and walk along the stop banks, ending at Rangiriri. Cattle pugging may cause uneven surfaces to walk on.

**Leader:** John McArthur

**Ph:** 021 288 9641

**Grade:** E

---

**Trip 3134****Snowcraft 1****27/28 July**

This is one of the most popular trips we run each year and for good reason. The Basic Snowcraft Course is aimed at introducing you to the alpine environment in which you will learn valuable skills to safely enjoy it. You must attend a gear assessment evening prior to the weekend. This will be on Wednesday 24 July between 5.30 -7.00 pm at Bivouac. The basics of snowcraft will be taught on Saturday, including how to use crampons and ice axes, self-arrest, how to walk on icy slopes, navigation tips, basic avalanche awareness plus what to wear etc. The instruction will be done in areas close to the WTC Club hut, but we will spend most of the day out, weather permitting. A full assessment will be done by the instructors, of those learning the skills that are taught. If anyone is having difficulty, extra training will be given the next day if necessary. If the weather is too bad on Saturday, we will do instruction in our cosy lounge, as far as is practicable.

On Saturday evening, there will be a sumptuous meal in our large dining area.

Sunday's instruction depends on how much we managed to cover on Saturday. If all went well, then we have the chance to try out our new-found skills by walking up as far as the NZ Alpine Hut, the highest inhabited building on the mountain. We plan on being out most of the day, returning to the Club hut by about 2.00 pm at the latest to clean up and get back to Hamilton at a reasonable time. Given good weather, by the end of the weekend you will understand the principles behind the rather complex concept of "snowcraft". It takes a lot of practice and a genuine

understanding of what is real and perceived danger when entering the snow and ice heights of Ruapehu. On satisfying our instructors that you have completed this e.course with competence, you may attend our follow-up Snowcraft 2, which will



be held over the weekend of 7-8 September. The departure time will be early evening on Friday 26 July. Most will go in the vans from London Street, or another designated departure point but we can pick up others en route. We will be based in our large and comfortable hut Friday-Saturday nights. All meals will be provided. A full list of gear will be provided upon registration (get in early as you may miss out). Crampons and ice axes can be hired from the Club or Bivouac. Mike, who is Manager of Bivouac in Hamilton, is the principal instructor and he can answer any queries you may have pre-course. Please note: To participate in the course, you must be a member of the Waikato Tramping Club. Application

details are on our Club website. Spaces for this course are limited and a deposit will be required to confirm your booking.

Leaders: Allan Wickens (course coordinator) Ph: 027 950 9546

Mike Peck (principal instructor) Ph: 021 369 256

Grade: M

Cost : approximately \$200 —includes transport, food, and hut fees (gear hire extra)

### **Trip 3135**

### **Southern Hakarimata**

**4 August**

I will take a route from Waingaro Road to the summit that the Club has not been on before. We will follow an informal track to the west of the Walkway Track, up an adjacent ridge in a big arc and joining the Walkway not far from the summit. Note that the track may have rough sections and windfalls to scramble over or around. The lookout tower at the summit gives expansive views over the Waikato and out to the west. We will have lunch at the summit before returning to Waingaro Road via the Walkway Track, which has an even surface and lots of steps. Attractive bush is a feature of the Hakarimata.

**Leader:** John Wilson

**Ph:** 021 1682082.

**Grade:** M

### **Trip 3136**

### **Whanganui Day Trips**

**8-11 August**

Long weekend, Thursday to Sunday

The plan is to head down to Ohakune and do the Old Coach Road on the way to Whanganui. At this stage we will head to Kai Iwi and stay at the camping ground where we will stay for 3 nights. There is Kai Iwi Beach to Okehu Stream walk, 4 km in length. Friday we will do the Atene Skyline walk 16.1km 6-8 hrs. It's a spectacular walk that circles around the centre island on a high ridge track. The track is not too strenuous, but a good level of fitness is required. There are beautiful views and a range of flora throughout the track. Saturday, explore

Waitahinga Dam Loop which is 9.8km. Generally considered a moderately challenging route, it takes an average of 3.5hrs to complete. Sunday a couple of short walks such as Rotokawau Virginia Lake 1.9 and Virginia Lake walk 2.1 km before heading back home. There are other things to do around Kai Iwi such as a ferry ride. But the idea is to have a bit of a social weekend and if we have time fit in some of the other shore walks around Whanganui.

**Leader:** Judith Bogle

**Ph:** 0273 810 283

**Grade:** M

**Transport:** TBA

---

### **Trip 3137**

### **Pukehohe 5 Summits Trail**

**18 August**

A semi-urban walk around the high points of Pukekohe. Set up by the Pukekohe Tramping Club for its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, the Five Summits Trail is a loop track linking the five main summits of the town. The trail is mostly on off-road walking paths and passes through parks and reserves, including the bush reserve of Roosevelt Park. We will see interesting geological features and have good views of the urban area and rural surrounds.

The trail starts and finishes at Pukekohe Train Station. It heads west to Bledisloe Park and thence to the top of Pukekohe Hill, 222 metres above sea level, the highest point in the immediate area. We won't do the whole 21 km loop but will bus up Pukekohe Hill.

**Leader:** Selwyn June

**Ph:** 07 843 3066 or 027 497 8151

**Grade:** E/M

---

### **Egmont Camphouse Base**

**25-28 October**

### **Leaving Friday 2pm Oct 25th**

Trip Rationale: 4.5 hours drive – includes 2 x 20 min stops. Arrive 6.30pm, check in is by 8pm.

Sunlight Hours: 0620 – 1955

Weather Impact: None, if you bring inside activities – books, cards, board games.

We will all check often with the mountain conditions to make safe tramp choices.

**Numbers Limited - BOOK EARLY:** You must book your own 3 x \$28 Hut bunk nights ASAP before you register for this trip. First in First served! 34 bunks. Fri 25<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> Mon checkout – 10am.

**Note:** Anyone booking on the DOC site must set up their own DOC Hut account before they can book.

**Wide Range Fitness/Tramps:** choose your activity at a level you are comfortable with, long day tramps, short walks from the base or simply sit on the deck and enjoy the fantastic views or visit local attractions?

**The Tramps:** here is the DOC Brochure link - a mix of tramps for different abilities. <https://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/places-to-go/taranaki/places/egmont-national-park/north-egmont-area/?tab-id=50578>

Tramps chosen will depend on the mountain conditions and the weather forecast.

Fit full day tramps proposed:

Saturday – walk left: a group could be dropped off early at Lake Dive Road end and walk back to the hut – via the Stradford Plateau/Translator Road Tracks or the Curtis Falls/Maketawa Tracks.

Sunday – walk right: a group could walk to Holly Hut and back via the Kokowai/Kaiiauai/Ram Tracks.

**Transport:** WTC will have a minimum of 2 vehicles and have enough drivers to allow for some drop-offs/pick-ups for multi-choices each day.

Hertz Drivers Rules: any WTC member can register as a driver for any WTC Hertz Hired vehicle.

**Private Groups:** those who choose to travel on their own, please register as normal and state in the comments ‘I DON’T WANT A WTC SEAT’ and then email the leader with your travel ETA’s etc.

**Accommodation:** Back packer style - The Camphouse must be booked in advance. Parking is close by. Full details: <https://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/places-to-go/taranaki/places/egmont-national-park/things-to-do/lodges/the-camphouse/>

Any questions, queries, suggestions welcome to...

**Leader:** Theresa O’Leary      **Ph:** 027 416 2633 [theresa.oleary.eme@gmail.com](mailto:theresa.oleary.eme@gmail.com)

**Cost:** shared transport; guide: Kia-\$149 a day, seats 7 with packs + fuel a van, seats 12 \$179 + fuel and your pre-paid \$28 a night x 3 = \$84pp hut tickets 😊

---

## Mid-week Walks & Tramps

We have a walk or tramp on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month. The activities have proven to be as varied as the group is and the communication is via the Mid-week W & Ts Group page on WhatsApp. If you would like to be part of this communication, please download WhatsApp on your phone and text your request to Isla on 021 209 6539.

---

## Kayakers unite

Who is interested in kayak trips? Perhaps a bit similar to the ‘Tramping on Bikes’ trips. Some for a single day trip, some with overnight camping. Some where you might hire a kayak when we get there, many where we will each need to have one and bring it.

If you are interested and would like to join in, please email me your permission [theresa.oleary.eme@gmail.com](mailto:theresa.oleary.eme@gmail.com) to add you and your mobile phone number into a WhatsApp ‘WTC on water’ group and that will get us off to a beginning. And do send suggestions for trips, and how you personally might help get this group off to a great start.

Theresa O’Leary

---



## *Editorial*

Dianne has not been well and is in hospital where the cause of her ill health is being investigated. We all wish her well and hope that suitable treatment can be given soon to set her on the road to recovery.

In last month's Presidential Blog an insert stated that Judith had been president for two years. This was incorrect sorry, three years it was.

It is with great sadness that we note the death of Shaun Barnett, well known trumper, photographer and writer. Many will recognise his name from articles in Wilderness magazine, which he edited for several years. He also edited FMC's Backcountry for several years. I got to know Shaun when he was on the FMC executive. He was quiet, gentle and respectful, and built up an enviable record of tramping throughout the country, having created a career out of his passion for tramping. He felt that New Zealand tramping literature was very limited and set about rectifying that with his numerous guides and books, each including many of his wonderful photos. Shaun's tramping record is an inspiration and his death a prompt for us all to make the very most of tramping opportunities while we are able to.

John Wilson

---

## *Ski club*

**Membership** is open! We're one of the most affordable clubs on the mountain with our \$115 annual membership, and nightly members' rates of \$35 / \$20 (adult / child). Staying on the mountain is a pretty epic experience and a great way to get on the lifts early. Members get priority access to the Lodge for themselves and guests at weekends. During our peak months there are a small number of non-member beds available, as a result. If you are interested in membership then get in touch. Or just apply now !

### **July Dates & Events**

- 28 - 30 June Matariki weekend.
- 6 - 21 School Holidays. Stay for a few days or a week.
- 27 / 28 Beginner's Snowcraft. Run by our Tramping section. For those who want to learn how to travel safely in an Alpine environment. Get in quick. The Hut is booked out for this event. There's normally plenty of midweek space during July although mountain facilities are opened progressively as staffing and snow cover permits.

---

## **Trip Reports**

### **Trip 3107**

### **Paparoa Track**

**25-28 February**

No one else could get a booking to join us for this Great Walk, so it was just the two of us. Before starting the track, we stayed a couple of nights at Formerly the Hilton Hotel in Blackball and did a day trip up the just opened Pike 29 Memorial Track. The bush was stunning, dominated by huge moss-covered red beech lower

down, changing with elevation to mountain beech and mountain neinei. The gradient was perfect for walking, but uphill bikers found it very hard work. We climbed 800 metres to a lookout which gave views to the Paparoa Track and



Moonlight Tops Hut, and down to the ventilation shaft of the Pike Mine.

Heavy overnight rain ceased by morning, and we started the Paparoa in misty but dry conditions. The track was much rockier than we anticipated. Some sunshine broke through, warming us for lunch, and allowing some views up at Ces Clark Hut on the bushline. The hut was half empty as most trampers carried on to Moonlight Tops

and bikers pushed on further. Next day, on the way to Moonlight Tops Hut, we made a side trip up Croesus Knob. What a hell of a place to mine for gold 100 years or so ago. Although there was mist around, we still got plenty of views down to the coast, along the range and down into the Pike and Moonlight valleys. We established ourselves in the hut then went for a walk to the top of Moonlight Track. There were many alpine flowers to take our interest.

The third day took us along the Escarpment. From a lookout at the junction of the Pike 29 Track, we could look across to where we had been a few days before. The rock face of the Escarpment added drama to the views and then we were zig-zagging down and along to Pororari Hut. Again there was plenty of time to enjoy the views before dinner and the sunset later. The last day took us down into the Pororari Valley and a wonderfully pleasant walk through a limestone gorge beside the river to Punakaiki.

Jean and John Wilson

### **Trip 3061**

### **Maungtautari North Ascent**

**30 April 2023**

The original plan was to do the Hakarimata ridge approaching from the west. However, crossing the farms to do this wasn't available to us so we defaulted to climbing Maungtautari from the northern side. For some, the arrangements of parking at the marae and walking the new approach track was new.

The weather wasn't great so the team diminished to six and we were on the track at 9am. We went up the quad track to the summit in about 2hours 15min in dull weather with occasional light showers. Not much of a view, but some tieke / Saddleback song and good company. Back down the quad track to the cars by

about 1pm and off home. The team was Judith and Ross, Les, Etienne, Jim and John.

Dull story but....

### **Trip 3096**

### **Mountain Madness**

**16 December**

The annual Mountain Madness trip has been in the Club's calendar since 2012 and is scheduled around the longest day of the year for good reason; climbing Pirongia, Maungatautari and Te Aroha in a day takes time! It also makes sense to do Pirongia first due to the technical nature of the track, and to do Te Aroha last to make the most of the evening sunlight. We (John, Angie and Anita) set off on Pirongia's Tirohanga track shortly before 7am and caught up along the way with Sharon and David, who had started walking before us. Due to low clouds, we were not able to enjoy any views, but it made for a comfortable walking temperature. We made it to the summit together and were back at the carpark by 11:30am. Time to refuel as we made our way to Hicks Road and the Maungatautari Marae. By the time we started on our second summit for the day, at about 12:45pm, the clouds had lifted and the long walk to the bush line was hot and sweaty. Following the quad bike track to the summit, we enjoyed the bird song and the sight of many tīeke/saddlebacks. We met Sharon and David once more shortly after summiting and it would be our last encounter, as they decided the drive to Te Aroha would make it impossible to complete in daylight. They finished the madness with a climb of Te Aroha the next day.



The three of us were back at the carpark shortly before 4pm, replenished calories and electrolytes and drove over to Te Aroha where we attempted the last peak for the day, setting out in the late afternoon light. On the way up, Angie decided that her madness level had been reached and let us move on to explore ours. We marched on until John declared about halfway up

that he wasn't quite mad enough to continue after all. While I soldiered on to the top, just me and my head, doubts and weariness gave conviction and optimism a run for their money. It was with great elation and satisfaction that I reached the cool and windy top of the Te Aroha at about 7:30pm. I enjoyed the views at dusk just long enough to take the all-important photo evidence. Even though the legs were tired, the fading sunlight necessitated a quick descent, and I was happy to



meet up with John at the top of Bald Spur for the last section of the track. John had continued on for a bit and then made a slow retreat, kindly waiting for me to catch him up on my way down. We were back in the Te Aroha Domain at about 9:10pm, where Angie was waiting with cold cans of (alcohol free) beer. What a great way to end a very mad day! A big thanks to John for organising and for providing safe transport between the mountains.

Participants: John, Angie, Sharon, David, Anita (scribe)

### **Trip 3124                      Fungi search in Otanewainuku Forest                      19 May**

Otanewainuku forest is located south of Tauranga. Our trip began with a very comfortable van ride. This was a popular trip, attracting 21 people including six children. The group met at the carpark shelter and took the Loop Track to the lookout tower on the Otanewainuku summit (90 mins return). The forest has never been logged and there were fine examples of kahikatea towering up to the canopy. The trip was described as suitable for younger children and their agility at negotiating the steps on the track was impressive. As one member commented, “that child will be climbing Everest when she’s older.” The view from the tower was splendid with panoramic views across the Bay of Plenty to Whakaari / White Island and



Annemarie Lamb

Moutuhora / Whale Island. After lunch back at the shelter, the group split into two.



Whataroa Falls

Theresa O'Leary

The first group went on a fungi search on the Rimu Loop Walk. There were plenty of examples and the bubble gum fungus was a favourite. The second group walked to the Whataroa Falls which took one hour (each way) on an undulating track. This



group quickly split into four; 1) speedy children, followed by a Mum, 2) a wonderful twosome, 3) faster walkers aided with tramping poles, and 4) another group walked the track slower, learning the ‘tips-n-tricks’ of walking on New Zealand slippery clay and root-full natural tracks, with thanks to Allan W for his coaching. There was a disconcerting shriek as the group approached the waterfall, not unlike someone having an accident. Fortunately, it was just Etienne enjoying a swim in the deep pool below the waterfall. He commented that the water was chilly but that it would make an ideal swimming spot in summer. The location is idyllic with the flowing water, native forest and rock formations. After regrouping at the carpark we

headed home at 3.30pm and called into Greerton for an ice cream. The Otanewainuku forest is the ideal destination for a family orientated trip. The tracks are not too long, lead to interesting places and allow for a variety of activities; walking, botanising and picnicking. Irina commented, “the kids had a blast” and the following are some quotes from the children:

- "I enjoyed seeing the blue bubble gum fungi, it was really cool."
- "The walk in the forest was awesome, I especially liked the walk up to the waterfall"
- "What I didn't like was the long drive back home!"
- "What I found funny is while walking to the waterfall I put my feet into the water and realised it was FREEZING."
- "It was so funny when we walked through the forest and entered a cloud of stink that was left there by a male goat."
- "I was shocked how deep the water was at the waterfall. I stepped in thinking it was shallow, but the water reached up to my knees!"

Those on the trip were: Theresa, Etienne, Harry, Jeanette, Bob, Chris, Allan, Russell, Annemarie, John, Jean, and the ‘Mums’ – Irina, Anastasia, Galina plus their six children. And me, David (the trip scribe). A special thanks to Theresa for her leadership and to the drivers; Allan and Theresa.

## **Trip 3125**

## **Kakepuku**

**26 May**

A weather forecast for showers didn’t deter eight keen trampers from participating in this trip. Transport was by carpooling and the group met at the carpark at the start of the track at 9.15am. The climb to the summit took us one hour 15 mins. The mountain has a fine remnant of original forest and as we walked up the track, the sunlight filtered through the luxuriant foliage. Unfortunately, there was a chilly

southwester at the lookout which wasn't conducive to enjoying the views or studying the information boards. However, the group photographs were taken and we retreated to a sheltered lookout down the track for morning tea. It was pleasant sitting in the sun with our Thermos flasks discussing where we may like to go for our social lunch. There was an interesting find as we walked down the mountain - a frog on the track. It was identified as a green and golden bell frog native to eastern Australia.



The group decided to have lunch at Stallions, Te Awamutu. The meals were enjoyed by everyone and the 'roast of the day' is highly recommended. It was very tempting to settle in for the afternoon as the fire was going and there was plenty of interesting conversation. However, another walk beckoned, and we finished the day with a walk through Yarndley's Bush. This kahikatea swamp forest

is like stepping back in time and is well worth a visit. This trip was a most enjoyable day out, with the exercise, fine food and good company benefitting everyone.

Those on the trip were: Lynette, Cathy, Mike, Julia, Jim, Judith, Ross. And me David (the trip scribe). A special thanks to Lynette for her leadership, and to the drivers; Lynette, Julia and Ross.

---

### ***From the committee table:***

**New members:** Welcome to Kegan Lim, John & Julie Steele, and Annika Wing

**Resignations:** Cheryl Yip, Chris Underwood and Sophie Wakelin

**Membership:** The club has 178 tramping members.

---

### **WTC Annual Photo Competition**

Our annual competition closes on 7th August 2024. Our dates are a little earlier this year to align with the FMC photo competition. Entries must be supplied before or on the closing date in digital form. The following categories are in alignment with those of FMC:

1. Above bushline with no human element
2. Above bushline with a human element
3. Below bushline with no human element
4. Below bushline with a human element
5. Historic
6. Native flora, fauna and fungi
7. Long exposure

We also have two WTC categories which are ineligible for the FMC photo competition:

8. Club Character - features a humorous subject which has a club context.

9. International.

Our photos will be judged and results presented at the September Club Night. Entries are to be emailed to Nicola Lye: nicolahlye@gmail.com or given to Nicola on a USB stick before or on 7<sup>th</sup> August.

### **Rules:**

- A. Definition of a "human element". The definition of a "human element" is flexible but the general intention is: Where the photo contains anything, other than as a very minor feature: people, a hut, a track sign/marker, bridge, ice axe and anything else that has been introduced by humans into the environment then we would define that as having "a human element". But if a photo has what could be called a human element but that element is very small, inconsequential and not a feature in the photo then you could count it as "No human element".
- B. The intention of the long exposure category is for photography of scenes that the naked eye cannot normally comprehend. These shots require a very long exposure and the use of a tripod. The category is intended for highly technical images of shots taken at night, (including star trails), or in extremely low light situations such as caves or canyons. The category is not intended for normal dusk/dawn photography, or images where a long exposure is used to 'blur' the image (such as flowing water, or movement of the subject).
- C. Entries for the FMC aligned categories, apart from Historic, must be taken after 1 Jan 2022.
- D. Definition of "historic": The intention for the historic category is for entrants to go back through club and individual archives to select "old photos" rather than "photos of old things". As an example, a recent photo of a hut built in the 1950's is not a 'historic' photo. However, a photo of the same hut taken in the 1960's certainly is a 'historic' photo. Photos for the historic category must be taken before 1 Jan 2022.
- E. All photos, apart from the International Category, must be taken within New Zealand, which is defined as within our Exclusive Economic Zone. This includes the following islands: North, South, Stewart, Chatham, Kermadec, Sub-Antarctic.
- F. Only **two** entries per category allowed.
- G. Photos must be between 1MB and 5MB (if they go into the FMC competition, this is the size they have stipulated).

### **Notes:**

Please update your file name to reflect the title or to indicate there is no title, plus the category name e.g. "In the Wild – Above bushline with human element" or "No Title – Long Exposure". It is advisable to title your photos as this adds to the interest of the photo.

~~~~~

### **Confessions: Things that I've left behind**

**A mug**, on a weekend trip to the Kauaeranga. I fashioned a wire handle on a can and stripped the insulation off a power cable to run around the rim to prevent scalded lips. I became quite attached to this mug, but eventually all water in it looked like tea – rust had taken hold.

**Boots**, so I padded along in jandals on the Coromandel Walkway, Fletcher Bay to Stony Bay. We had to walk out to the bus at Sandy Bay and a race developed. My jandals and I held our own against the best of the booted.

**Tent pegs** for the family tent, but I was able to borrow some from the club members who ran the camp.

**Tent poles**, so we stayed in a hut instead.

**Cooker**. One was kindly shared, but we ate later than everyone else. I shared my gas in thanks.

**Socks**, but I had sock liners. I didn't let on until after the trip. Fortunately, it was an easy day trip and I avoided blisters.

**Trip cancelled**. I overlooked telling one person that my trip was cancelled. I rushed in to town with profuse apologies and took him home.

**Footprint** for my tent, but I had a tarp in the car.

**Car keys**. After canoeing on Lake Manapouri, I took a shuttle to Te Anau to get our van, leaving the family behind with all the gear. I broke some wire from a fence and gained entry to the van, where a spare key was meant to be. I searched through the van three times, then arranged for my key to be retrieved from Jean and sent on the next shuttle.

**Ferry tickets**. Leaving Hamilton for the South Island, we suddenly discovered that the ferry tickets were at home. A hasty return to collect them.

Warning: This list may not be exhaustive, but I've forgotten...

John Wilson

---

### **Nigel Barrett presented his Paramo rain jackets at the April Club Night.**

Hi Waikato Tramping Club folk,

Just thought I'd follow up and let you know that my website [www.paramo.co.nz](http://www.paramo.co.nz) is now live. I have loaded the code WAIKATO25 for 25% off the listed price for your members, the code will be active for at least the next 12 months with no limits set.

I have made a few presentations around the country now and have adapted it quite a bit. I think it's getting better. Cold calling retailers is a nerve-wracking experience...but after around 18 attempts now, I'm settling into that too. Very slow progress there, with retailers having stock orders stretching out 18 months, and struggling to believe there is a better breathability system. I have been making a few sales now that I have stock, so momentum is building slowly.



I wonder if any of you have seen this recent YouTube video:

<https://youtu.be/1r6rxWvZdho?si=tn8vuNok6DRJ5GtX>

Paramo UK's Director of international business development has been over to visit, and we travelled the West Coast, Nelson and Kaikoura area, visiting independent retailers there. He was very keen to show Paramo's support and commitment to me and the NZ market.

I hope you managed some good trips over the long weekend. Winter is setting in down here - looking for winter snow to settle in for the ski season.

Kind regards to you all.

Nigel Barrett

~~~~~  
*Snippets*

➤ Kiwi in Pureora forest? Yes they're there. Have a look at this link to see videos taken in March and uploaded to the Otorohanga Kiwi house website:  
<https://www.facebook.com/OtoKiwiHouse/videos/we-have-seen-evidence-of-kiwi-remaining-in-pureora-forest-for-a-number-of-years-/3651768228413605/?extid=reels>

➤ Napier Tramping Club's 50<sup>th</sup> celebration will be held on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> October/ A tramp up to Kaweka J in the morning will be followed by a celebration dinner in the evening. Ex and current members and friends are welcome. To register or for more information email Di or Su at [napietramping@gmail.com](mailto:napietramping@gmail.com)

➤ New research programme tackling human waste on Aoraki Mt Cook. The New Zealand Alpine Club spends more money flying human waste out of high huts on Aoraki Mt Cook than they get in hut fees. In partnership with mountaineers and Te Rūnanga o Arowhenua, the University of Canterbury led research programme aims to address the significant environmental, health and cultural issues of human waste being left on the maunga and to find a more practical, sustainable, and culturally appropriate solution. FMC are excited to see the outcome of the programme and its contribution to Leave No Trace framework.

*...from the DoC website...*

➤ No Goats in Tongariro National Park. In a systematic search covering 82% of the 78,618 hectare national park, the high-resolution thermal camera detected no goats. Follow-up eDNA testing at several waterways – aimed at detecting genetic material of any species in the area – also failed to detect goats. DOC Biodiversity Supervisor Danial van der Lubbe says the recent surveys have given a baseline for wild goat numbers in the park.

"The results attest to the effectiveness of our ongoing goat control efforts in surrounding areas; but we know by their nature aerial surveys can't spot everything," says Danial.

"Thermal cameras can't detect animals in dense, forested areas, so there may be the odd goat hiding away in these spots."

A long-running wild goat control programme in neighbouring Tongariro Forest and Erua conservation areas aims to minimize the opportunity for invasions into the national park.

“It will be an ongoing challenge, monitoring and preventing any establishment in the national park,” says Danial.

“We had a sighting of a goat near the boundary of the national park in April, so it’s always possible one will turn up.”

“Thermal imaging, eDNA – these are all tools to help us detect them, now and into the future, but we also do rely on people who are out there all the time to keep an eye on it.”

Wild goats can cause significant damage to New Zealand’s alpine and forest ecosystems. They heavily browse native plants and eat seedlings which can change the number and type of plants present in an area and takes food and shelter from native animals. People encountering goats in Tongariro National Park are encouraged to report the details, including the location, time, and number of goats, to 0800 DOC HOT (0800 362 468). A photo or video would be helpful if possible.

#### ➤ **Opening of suspension bridge on the Taranaki Maunga**

The Taranaki Crossing is a partnership between Ngā Iwi o Taranaki, DOC and Kānoa – Regional Economic Development & Investment Unit that has been in place from project feasibility through to delivery.

Construction of the 100-metre suspension bridge began in November 2023.

The build culminated with an event attended by more than 100 guests including iwi representatives, contractors, and staff from central and local government agencies.



The bridge, within Egmont National Park/Te Papakura o Taranaki, has been designed for a lifespan of 100 years, and to withstand the sub-alpine Manganui Gorge’s winds, weather conditions and a one in 250-year Mt Taranaki Avalanche.

Supported by two massive masts at either end, the bridge sits 49.5 m above the floor of the gorge and features artwork contributed by Ngāti Ruanui.

“This has been a challenging build in an at-times hostile environment – with plenty of reminders of why safety was one of the key drivers for this part of

the project,” says DOC’s Hauraki-Waikato-Taranaki Regional Director Tinaka Mearns.

“We knew from the outset this would be an impressive structure once finished, and so we’re delighted an eye-catching and important part of the Taranaki Crossing visitor experience is completed.”

Te Runanga o Ngāti Ruanui Trust Deputy Tumu W’akaae Ngapari Nui says the bridge marked a new era of co-governance for our Maunga.

“The bridge’s stunning visual appearance fits well into the mountain landscape and is a unique part of the cultural interface Ngāti Ruanui brought to this project.”

“The bridge will become a key tourist attraction, along with the experience Ngāti Ruanui has crafted, including our world-renowned Mountain House restaurant and accommodation complex,” says Ngapari.

“Taranaki’s regional economic development strategy Tapuae Roa identified the Taranaki Crossing as a priority project. This will attract more visitors, boost local businesses and create jobs and other opportunities,” says Bridget Sullivan, Principal Regional Advisor for Kānoa, the Government’s Regional Economic Development & Investment Unit.

“The original \$13.4 million grant from the Provincial Growth Fund has resulted in a lot of other funders coming on board to support the entire Taranaki Crossing project,” she said. “The grant includes funding for this stunning new bridge which has cost about \$1.2 million.”

The bridge will significantly improve access through this part of the mountain environment and improve visitor safety by replacing the existing track which descends through the bottom of the gorge. The existing track is prone to washouts and closure due to avalanche risk.

➤ DOC has announced the options being explored to reinstate walking access to Coromandel’s Cathedral Cove. The popular walking track to the picturesque beach has been closed since February 2023, due to damage caused by extreme weather events. DOC’s Hauraki Waikato Taranaki Regional Director Tinaka Mearns says the land across the reserve has continued to move since the initial storms.

“The continued land movement has made it challenging to identify a simple walking solution at a level of risk acceptable for the type of casual visitor who generally goes there,” Tinaka says.

“What we’ve worked to produce is a suite of possible options which cover reinstatement of walking access to the beach and also entrance to the recreation reserve.”

For walking access to the beach, three options are under consideration – one is a short-term fix which would see construction of new steps and a boardwalk to

reinstate a section of the existing track, while the two others would be long-term repairs involving installation of new infrastructure.

The two long-term options would require significant investment and also the installation of a new potentially cantilevered staircase and steps to the beach - and therefore take longer to design, procure and complete.

“Upholding the values of Ngāti Hei has been a key factor as we work through the options. Alignment with several pieces of conservation legislation, and community perspectives provides both great opportunity and creates a shared awareness for compromise.”

“As an example, we’ve had to examine pros and cons for each of these options and also factor in an historic pā site which is significant to Ngāti Hei,” Tinaka says. Other options explored as part of the development work include visitor entry points from the Hahei Short Walk, making best use of an existing entrance at Grange Rd, and whether access over adjacent farmland is feasible.

“We need to balance out aspects including costs and investment risk, resilience against future weather events, as well reducing the environmental and social impacts on what has been a heavily visited site.”

A presentation giving an overview of the options being explored has been added to the DOC website Cathedral Cove and Hahei updates web page.

***“Choose only one master – Nature” –Rembrandt***



Annemarie Lamb